

## Iowa Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Commission

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DECISION

TOPIC      **Contract – Cleanup of MidAmerica Tanning, EPA/DNR Superfund**

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The U.S. EPA is proposing to conduct additional cleanup action at the Mid-America Tanning Superfund Site near Sergeant Bluff. In May of 1998 the department entered into a Superfund State Contract (SSC) (Contract No. 98-01-IA-7M-00) for cleanup actions that were completed in 2000. The department paid about \$235,000 as the 10% state cost share for those cleanup actions. In the 1998 SSC the department also agreed to pay 100% of all subsequent operation and maintenance costs associated with the site. Those cleanup actions included consolidating and capping waste material at two locations and placing a synthetic cover over two former sludge lagoons (about 3 acres total in size) to prevent exposure to hydrogen sulfide vapors.

In July of 2005 a release occurred from the sludge lagoons bringing into question the permanence of the cleanup actions at the sludge lagoons. The EPA Region 7 has agreed to allocate Superfund monies to accomplish a permanent closure of the sludge lagoons, which involves stabilizing the sludge and capping it. The EPA has received a bid for just under \$2 million to accomplish this work. To expend these Superfund resources they must amend the SSC to include the costs of the proposed action. Amended (i.e., reduced) requirements of the department for ongoing operation and maintenance are also addressed in the amended SSC.

The SSC calls for the department to seek appropriations for a 10% cost share of the first \$2 million dollars of the costs to stabilize and cap the sludge lagoons. The 10% state cost share shall not exceed \$200,000. The EPA agrees to pay 100% of project costs in excess of \$2 million. The SSC still calls for the state to be responsible for 100% of subsequent operation and maintenance costs, but those costs are expected to be minimal.

The EPA is attempting to initiate this action in the very near future to enable completion of the project this construction season. Also the Superfund resources are available this fiscal year (through September) and may not be available next year.

The commission is being asked to approve the amended SSC for the Mid-America Tanning Superfund site.